(b) and (c) As per existing practice, recommendations for the Padma Awards are invited from the State Governments/UT Administrations, the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, Padma Awardees and Institutes of Excellence. However, all recommendations, received from whatsoever source, are placed before the Padma Awards Committee for its consideration. It is, therefore, obvious that persons other than those recommended by State Governments may get the Padma Awards. Out of 93 persons whose names were approved for the Padma Awards for the year 2003, 20 were recommended by State Governments.

Losses due to cold wave in Northern India

141. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the whole of Northern India has been under a severe cold wave in the month of January this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the casualties as a result of the cold wave, State-wise;

(c) whether keeping in view the magnitude of sufferings and loss of life and its devastating effect on rabi crops, the cold wave could be categorised as a national disaster;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what relief measures have been offered/are proposed to be offered for ameliorating the sufferings of affected persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes Sir, many parts of the Northern India underwent severe cold wave conditions during the current winter season.

(b) There have been reports of deaths due to the cold wave in a number of States. Detailed information regarding this has been asked for from the States and is awaited.

(c) and (d) Cold waves/Heat waves have not been included as natural disasters by the Eleventh Finance Commission for the purpose of providing assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF).

(e) The State Government concerned are responsible for relief and rehabilitation. Information regarding the relief measures taken by the States has been asked for and is awaited from the States.

Registration of Madrassas

142. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work in regard to registration of Madrassas in the country, particularly in the border areas has been taken up;

(b) if so, the number of Madrassas that have been registered so far; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) The Union Government have not undertaken any work relating to registration of Madrassas.

(b) and (d) Does not arise.

Missing Pakistani citizens

143. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Pakistani citizens who came to India on valid passports/visas and are in Andhra Pradesh and have overstayed or went missing;

(b) whether efforts have been made to trace them and the result thereof; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) As per available information, as on December, 31st 2002, four Pakistani nationals were reported overstaying and six Pak nationals were reported missing in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The powers under Sec 3(2)(c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946 to detect and deport foreign nationals staying in India unauthorisedly have